

Gates Grant Provides Library With New Computers

by *Tracy Ayers*
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The sign on the door reads no computers available until Friday. Friday? Why?

The answer is clear and exciting, according to library staff member Kathryn Cagle — upgrades!

The library is replacing old, out-of-date computers equipped with Windows NT systems with new computers equipped with Windows XP. This is a significant step up, according to Melanie Estal, network services consultant for the secretary of state information system, part of the Tennessee State Libraries and Archives.

Cagle said the best part is that

the upgrades are totally for the benefit of the public and are at no cost to the library.

"The upgraded computers are provided by a PACHUG grant (Public Access Computer Hardware Upgrade Grant) through the Bill and Melissa Gates Foundation," Estal said.

"Giles County is included in 'wave' four of the 12 'waves' in the state, which began in West Tennessee.

The library staff members said they are excited that the new systems will be in effect Friday.

"This means the library will now have eight computers with Internet access and another with educational games for children," Cagle said.



—STAFF PHOTO BY TRACY AYERS

Giles County Library staff member Kathryn Cagle (standing) assists Melanie Estal with the PACHUG upgrade installations. The 'new and improved' computers will be available for public use Friday.